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By:

Nancy Foster

PATENT APPLICATION

Customer Number: 22,852

Attorney Docket No. 4853.0072-00000

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

RECEIVED  
AUG 18 2003  
TECH CENTER 1600/2900

In re Application of:

Norimasa OKUDA et al.

Serial No.: 09/870,483

Group Art Unit: 1625

Filed: June 1, 2001

Examiner: Taylor V. OH

Title: A METHOD FOR PRODUCING  
ALPHA-HYDROXYCARBOXYLIC  
ACID

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

### AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

Applicants now respond to the Office Action dated February 12, 2003. The period for reply has been extended three months by the Petition for Three Month Extension of Time and fee payment filed concurrently herewith. Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of all rejections. Please amend the application as follows:

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